



## Media Advisory

### For Immediate Release

August 25, 2009

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### **Assemblymembers De La Torre, Coto, Fong, and health community leaders announce permanent funding of \$1.5 million annually to encourage doctors to serve in low-income communities**

*San Jose's Gardner Family Health Center will benefit from Thompson Program*

**San Jose, Calif.** –Assemblymember Hector De La Torre alongside community leaders welcome Dr. Kyoko Pena-Robles to Gardner Family Health Center as a participating doctor in the Steven M. Thompson Program. The Program was created to address physician shortages in low-income communities across California. The Program grants loan forgiveness to those who commit to practice in inner-city and rural communities for at least three years. The Foundation awarded 16 grants in July, and the Gardner Family Health Center was selected to have a participating physician practice in their clinic.

**WHO:** Hector De La Torre, Assemblymember 50<sup>th</sup> District  
Joe Coto, Assemblymember 23<sup>rd</sup> District  
Paul Fong, Assemblymember 22<sup>nd</sup> District  
Nora Campos, San Jose Councilmember 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Frederick J. Ferrer, CEO The Health Trust  
Reymundo Espinoza, CEO Gardner Family Health Center  
Dr. Kyoko Pena-Robles, Thompson Program Physician

**WHAT:** Announce permanent funding of \$1.5 million to the Steven M. Thompson Program.  
Applauds Dr. Dr. Kyoko Pena-Robles as a participating physician in the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program in San Jose.

**WHEN:** **Friday, August 28, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.**

**WHERE:** St. James Health Center  
55 East Julian Street  
San Jose, CA 95112

### **Background:**

Assemblymember De La Torre authored Assembly Bill 2439 that generates more than \$1.5 million per year to fund the Thompson Program from a mandatory \$25 fee from physicians, when they renew their license in the State of California. The Program will provide an estimated \$105,000 in loan reimbursements per physicians to practice medicine in under-served communities throughout California.

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